

GITA - PSIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Regional Communications Enhancement Package Award SOUTHERN AZ BORDER COMMUNITIES - FY 2010

The Public Safety Interoperable Communications Office (PSIC) within the Government Information Technology Agency (GITA), State of Arizona, is pleased to announce a Technical Assistance (TA) award to Arizona by the US Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications (OEC).

The TA award will enable the State and OEC to facilitate a set of meetings in Arizona border communities with the goal of developing a Regional Interoperable Communications Plan (RICP) for Arizona's 4 Border Counties - Cochise, Pima, Santa Cruz and Yuma. The RICP will acknowledge the border communities covered by the Yuma Regional system and planned to be covered by the Pima County Regional system and will focus on plans for the balance of the communities along the border. OEC resources provided by the award include an experienced facilitator, data specialist and communications subject matter expert. Templates and Guidance Documents will also be provided.

Regional Interoperable Communications Plan (RICP)

The goal of a RICP is to:

- Establish a regional vision for current and future communication assets
- Identify and develop a migration plan for current and future funding sources
- Provide recommendations to improve regional communications capabilities during the migration process

Using a facilitated approach to developing the RICP will help assure that best practices and lessons learned from other areas will be applied, and that the regional plan aligns with the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) and the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP).

Developing a RICP requires the collaborative efforts of local public safety professionals in the region. OEC recommends that participants include communications and operational representatives from multiple area agencies and jurisdictions across all public safety/service disciplines, including non-governmental organizations, volunteers and tribal entities.

State Support

One of the key Strategic Initiatives of the 2010 State of AZ Statewide Interoperable Communication Plan (SCIP) is development of regional interoperable communication systems. In 2009, PSIC received requests from border community leadership to assist in facilitating development of actionable plans for interoperable communications within border communities. In response to these requests, PSIC is targeting the RICP to these communities.

PSIC staff will facilitate RICP meetings within border communities with OEC resources. For additional information, please contact Michael Todd, Outreach Manager, PSIC at mtodd@azgita.gov and 623-252-2339.